

with the Contract With America. We debated 31 bills for 100 days. Three were signed into law.

Then, the Republicans were 1 month late with their budget resolution; late with their appropriation bills. We find ourselves with a stopgap spending bill going through, and then they pushed through the Medicare rate increase on seniors and the tax break for the wealthy and said to the President, "Take it or leave it."

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to the President, "Leave it. Veto these Republican plans to raise Medicare premiums and provide tax cuts for wealthy Americans."

We are now facing a shutdown of the Government because Speaker GINGRICH's political strategy calls for this High Noon scenario. This is a complete abdication of responsibility by the leadership in this House of Representatives. It is shameful. It will penalize American families. If this is the Gingrich revolution, keep it.

STOP THE EXCUSES AND BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the President met with his Cabinet yesterday to discuss the logistics of shutting down the Government. I have a suggestion for the President—instead of meeting with your Cabinet, maybe you could make some time to meet with congressional leaders to discuss balancing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, as a candidate, Bill Clinton promised to balance the budget. While President, he has stated that he supports a plan that balances the budget in 5, 7, 9, even 10 years. But yet he has shown no leadership, has presented no plan, and has given us no choice.

The Republican majority has a plan to balance the budget in 7 years. It is time for the Clinton Democrats to stop the excuses and balance the budget. It is the right thing to do for our children's future.

THE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER, AND WARTY BLIGGENS

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the silly flap about whether the President paid enough attention to the Speaker on Air Force One reminds me of a poem written by my favorite philosopher, Archy the Cockroach.

It goes as follows:

i met a toad
the other day by the name
of warty bliggens
he was sitting under
a toadstool
feeling contented
he explained that when the cosmos

was created
that toadstool was especially
planned for his personal
shelter from sun and rain
thought out and prepared
for him

do not tell me
said warty bliggens
that there is not a purpose
in the universe
the thought is blasphemy

a little more
conversation revealed
that warty bliggens
considers himself to be
the center of the said
universe
the earth exists
to grow toadstools for him
to sit under
the sun to give him light
by day, and the moon
and wheeling constellations
to make beautiful
the night all for the sake of
warty bliggens

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE IN BOSNIA?

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, in the next few days this House will make a momentous decision: Shall the United States commit ground troops to Bosnia? The President has the constitutional power to commit troops, but Congress has the constitutional duty to fund that commitment or to refuse to fund that commitment. Before we make that decision, the President has an obligation to tell the Congress what is the objective, what vital United States interests are threatened.

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What will those troops do to protect any vital United States interest if they are threatened there? Just as one Member of this Congress, I for one will not vote any money to send ground troops to Bosnia until those questions are satisfactorily answered.

KEYSTONE KOPS MENTALITY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, here in Newtland a true Keystone Kops mentality has taken full control. The zealots have lost all reality. They tell America to pay any price, even default in order to accomplish their agenda.

Yes, we have Chief NEWT and a zillion little Keystone zealots chasing each other around the Capitol. The House Republicans cannot agree with the Senate Republicans. This morning the House Republicans cannot even agree with each other about what their agenda is or their schedule is, but they are willing to put the full faith and credit of the most important Nation in the entire world on the line and risk that despite our history of paying our debts.

Let them listen to one of their own Republican colleagues, the gentleman

from New York who said, and quote: I think the whole thing is nuts. Nobody knows the potential impact. If you play this hand and lose, you can really do a lot of damage. It is like threatening to explode a time bomb in your own backyard. That is the mentality that controls: Gingrichism, excellence in pursuit of error.

ENERGY SECRETARY O'LEARY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Energy Secretary O'Leary wasted over 43,000 taxpayer dollars to compile an enemies list which included some Members of this Chamber. If any Member of Congress had taken the taxpayers' dollars and spent them in such a blatant self-serving manner, they would have been run out of office, and rightfully so.

At a time when we are making tough choices to balance the budget, it is the height of irresponsibility for Secretary O'Leary to be wasting money like that.

One of the targets of her investigation, Senate Majority Leader DOLE, said the whole thing was a shocking waste of taxpayer dollars.

I was also a target of this investigation. I think it is an abuse of the American taxpayers themselves. After all, this administration has been mired in one ethical scandal after another: Whitewater, Travelgate, Webb Hubbell, Ron Brown. The list goes on and on.

While the administration warns of an impending financial default which could put 800,000 Government workers on unemployment, it is clear that there has been an ethical default of almost 3 years. It is time for Secretary O'Leary to find gainful employment outside the U.S. Government.

ACCESS TO THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Wall Street Journal says it all this morning: Donald Jones, a wealthy backer of House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, has taken the concept of being a Washington insider to new heights. The Wisconsin telecommunications entrepreneur enjoyed unusual access to the Speaker as House leaders fine-tuned a sweeping telecommunications bill earlier this year.

This gentleman has millions or billions of dollars' worth of financial interests before this House, and we find out that he spoke often 2 to 3 hours daily with the Speaker of the House.

This is the way Mr. Jones describes his access: I participate as an observer. I interpret and I analyze the subtleties of the meeting for the Speaker.

In the end, on this bill, this bill treated both the Internet and cable

services in which Mr. Jones has a tremendous financial interest favorably by deregulating rates, among other things. The clincher is Mr. GINGRICH opposed an amendment in being soft on pornography on the cable channels. Do you know that? Mr. Jones, 40 percent of his gross is involved with the pornography channel.

The American people did not vote last November for this kind of change.

BLAME GAME IS OVER

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the Government has not balanced its books since 1969. Since then, we have had 26 years of excuses, 26 years of Washington gimmicks, and 26 years of righteous indignation about balancing the budget.

Well, the blame game is over.

Congress has reached the end of the excuses. Our balance budget lays aside the gimmicks and the shell games. We can no longer ignore the impact of deficit spending on our children. It would be nothing less than moral irresponsibility to look our children in the eye and say to them, that they should continue to shoulder our burdens because we do not have the guts to do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, the President has two clear choices. He can choose a balanced budget and secure a brighter future for all Americans, or he can choose a dark future for our families and our children.

MR. JONES AND THE SPEAKER

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, how many more times do the Members of this House and the public have to pick up the newspaper and see a new ethical transgression by the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH? Once again, we are treated in the Wall Street Journal to NEWT GINGRICH mixing campaign contributions, private interests, and public service. We now see that Mr. Donald Jones served as an adviser to Mr. GINGRICH 2 or 3 hours a day to interpret the telecommunications bill to him while he gave Mr. GINGRICH, his PAC gave the Republican Party \$125,000, \$25,000 to the Gingrich PAC.

It turns out that, not only did Mr. Jones have a financial interest in the outcome of the telecommunications bill, he was sitting in the Speaker's office, but also when many of us were startled when the Speaker took a position against the cyberporn portions of the telecommunications bill to protect children from pornography. We now find out that Mr. Jones had a financial interest in the telecommunications company that was dealing with pornography and adult films. Mr. Jones said

he did not know. Forty percent of his income from that company came from pornography. Mr. Speaker, clean up your office.

THE MOST INVESTIGATED ADMINISTRATION IN HISTORY

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, just when we thought that the poor judgment or the ethical standards of the Clinton administration could not get any worse, along comes the revelation yesterday that Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary paid \$43,000 in taxpayers' money to compile what amounts to an enemies list. For that, the Secretary should resign immediately.

Secretary O'Leary joins a long list of other Clinton administration figures who have helped make this probably the most investigated administration in history: Deputy Attorney General Webb Hubbell, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, Secretary of HUD, Henry Cisneros, Treasury official Jean Hansen, White House lawyers William Kennedy and Bernie Nussbaum and resident egghead Ira Magaziner, the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Roger Altman, not to mention White Whitewater. And who can forget poor Josh Steiner, the former Treasury official who testified that he lied to his own diary. Perhaps most important and embarrassing is the unprecedented legal defense fund for a sitting President.

Yet this same administration has the nerve to lecture us about balancing the budget.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority want to shut down Government because they cannot pass their bill that is loaded up like a Christmas tree. They have not passed the majority of the appropriations bills, and they are over 40 days late.

So what are we going to see? Social Security claims will not be paid. Veterans' benefit checks delayed. National parks closed.

The Republican majority has told the President and the American people, it is our way or no way. Well, the voters sent the message last Tuesday and by the polls show that by 2 to 1 they are rejecting the Republican extremism.

We support a balanced budget, but not at the expense of cutting Medicare, education funds, and student loans.

LAY ASIDE GIMMICKS

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, our opponents like to come to the floor and say the most outrageous things about what is going on here in Congress. Over and over we hear words such as extremists, zealots, and terrorists. This from the same party who constantly demand civility in public life.

Now, many on the other side know that we have to get control of the budget. Many of them have voted for a balanced budget amendment. In their heart of hearts, they know we have to balance the budget. But, unfortunately, most of our opponents lack the basic will to say "no." They would rather go on spending more and more taxpayer dollars on inefficient programs than lose the support of a particular liberal special interest group.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to lay aside the excuses and the gimmicks and all the talk about extremist and zealots. Let us balance the budget. It is the right thing to do for the American people and the future of this great Nation. Let's just do it.

MORE ON GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, regrettably on Tuesday I think the unthinkable may well happen. That is, first of all, the shutdown of the Federal Government. It did not have to be this way. Nor did it have to be that the Nation's economy would needlessly be endangered by a possible default on the debt ceiling.

There ought to be two bills passed here that are called clean. One that simply extends the funding for the Federal Government for another couple of weeks while negotiations on a balanced budget take place, and the second bill, a clean bill, simply permits the Government to continue borrowing to pay back bills, not future spending.

But regrettably, because extremists in this House have insisted on loading on unacceptable provisions such as an increase in Medicare part B premiums and other provisions, these will have to be vetoed. The President will really have no choice and so we have come to this crunch.

Thousands of Federal employees in West Virginia and the eastern panhandle and across the Nation will be furloughed. Millions of citizens will be inconvenienced as Government services are shut down and, worst of all, by taking them hostage, the economy of this country can be endangered.

It does not have to be this way, Mr. Speaker, nor should it be.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Pursuant to clause 5 of